

Proclamation

Office of the Mayor

Armenian Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month – April 2026

WHEREAS, from 1915-1923 during the Armenian Genocide, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian men, women and children as well as over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Pontians, Syriacs, and others were massacred as part of the planned complete eradication of these Christian indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern genocide that still requires justice; and,

WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts, with the active participation of the State of New Jersey, resulted in delivering 117 million dollars of assistance between 1915 and 1930 that directly resulted in the salvation of the Christian Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian survivors from being completely annihilated during the Genocide; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 in 2007, affirming recognition of persecuted Armenians; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the implementation of the Holocaust, in order to garner support from his followers, Adolf Hitler asked "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"; and,

WHEREAS, the genocide has been recognized by the US House of Representatives, US Senate and the President of the United States and over thirty countries, including: Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, the Vatican, and Argentina; and,

WHEREAS, the Republic of Armenia is now a free, independent, democratic state and a strategic ally of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, as a continuation of genocidal policies, in the lead up to the collapse of the Soviet Union and declaration of independence of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), ethnic Armenians were brutally killed in Sumgait (February 1988), Kirovabad (November 1988) and Baku (January 1990), and the entire Armenian minority of Azerbaijan, numbering over 350,000 people, was forcibly deported from the country; and,

WHEREAS, in July of 1988, within months of the Sumgait pogroms, the United States Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690 to the Fiscal Year 1989 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (H.R. 4782), concerning the Artsakh conflict and calling on the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people ..." and noted that "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrests ..."; and,

WHEREAS, in 1989, the United States Senate condemned the anti-Armenian Pogroms in Azerbaijan and called upon the Soviet government that "those responsible for the killing and bloodshed be identified and prosecuted"; and,

WHEREAS, on December 10th of 1991, despite continued violence against the people of Artsakh, a popular referendum proclaiming the republic took place in Artsakh during the process of the Soviet Union disintegration; and,

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan committed a massacre against the peaceful civilians of Maragha on April 10, 1992; and,

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WHEREAS, Azerbaijan attacked the Republic of Artsakh on September 27, 2020, for 44 days, causing the death and mutilation of thousands of Armenians on their historic lands and committing human rights violations by hiring Islamic militants, using prohibited cluster munitions and white phosphorus, and directly targeting civilians; and,

WHEREAS, from December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan blockaded the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia which halted all food, medicine and fuel from entering Artsakh, and periodically cut off gas, electricity, water and lines of communication creating a dire humanitarian crisis with the intent of annihilating the ethnic Armenian population in violation of the United Nations Genocide Convention; and,

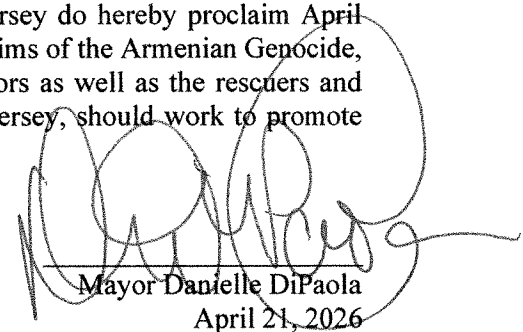
WHEREAS, Azerbaijan attacked the population of Artsakh again on September 19, 2023, indiscriminately killing civilians, including women, children and the elderly and forcibly removing all Armenians from their 4,000-year-old homeland as a final step to the genocide of the Armenians of Artsakh, and continues to deny the more than 120,000 forcibly displaced indigenous Armenians their internationally protected right of safe, dignified, and collective return under international law; and,

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan continues to occupy sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, threaten further violence against its population, arbitrarily detain civilians, prisoners of war, and Artsakh officials in violation of international law, and systematically destroy Armenian cultural heritage in the Artsakh Republic, including churches, monasteries, cemeteries, and other monuments

WHEREAS, Azerbaijani officials have not yet been sanctioned for their human rights violations during the 44-day war in 2020 and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, by recognizing, remembering, and educating those about the Armenian Genocide, and the second Armenian Genocide in the Republic of Artsakh, the Pogroms in Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad, the massacre in Maragha, and all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do not occur again, and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Danielle DiPaola, Mayor of Emerson, New Jersey do hereby proclaim April 2026 as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the Artsakh Genocide, and all other genocides in honor of all the survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the state of New Jersey, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.



Mayor Danielle DiPaola
April 21, 2026